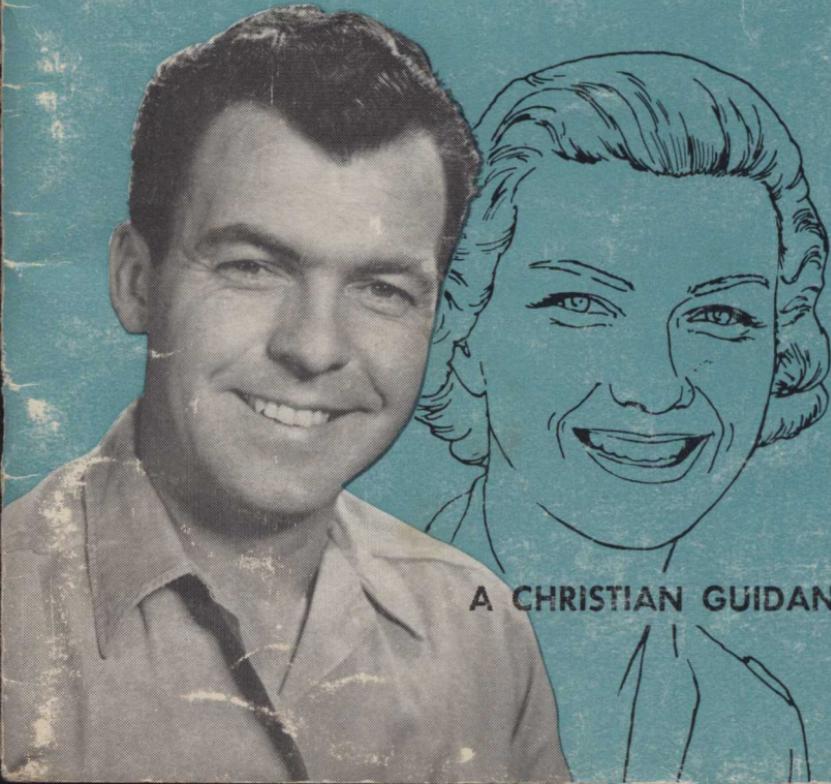




how to keep your HUSBAND **HAPPY**



A CHRISTIAN GUIDANCE BOOK

Mae Weeks

How to Keep Your Husband Happy

by

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You're the Key . . .

- There's so much unhappiness
- Homes that God intended to be a little bit of pure heaven are a large bit of pure misery. Divorce courts are crowded with pitiful creatures numbly mumbling their inability to obtain the happiness they seek. Saddest are the little children left stunned and whimpering by the forces of unhappy circumstances.
- And happiness is so desirable. God has put so much in this big, wide world to make folks glad. Life was never intended to swim in tears. God's plan calls for pure and unadulterated joy.
- Somewhere we've missed the boat. We've failed to make the proper connection. We're on the wrong trail. Our emphasis has been misplaced. We've failed to see the prime source of happiness.
- Don't misunderstand me. I don't think for a minute that God intended life to be one glorified picnic. We're not human butterflies flitting blissfully from cradle to grave. Life is far more than a mere bowl of cherries.
- There are to be serious moments too. Rain will appear as well as sunshine. We'll not always be in the pink of health. Many are born who are in no way born equal. Storms will surely come.
- But over all of this, and in and through all of this, there's happiness to be found. It's a deep, abiding sense of warmth, inner peace, satisfaction, companionship and attainment. It's there, rain or shine. Happiness is possible and in spite of adverse circumstances.
- Where, oh where?
- Let me whisper it to you . . . the secret is found in this book. And more than that . . . you're the key to happiness. You, the wife and mother of the home. You, the one whom the Bible calls the "weaker vessel." You're the answer to the problem, you're the priceless ingredient to joy in the home.
- Ponder God's wisdom here: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22). "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband" (Prov. 12:4). "Who can find a virtuous woman? . . . She will do him [husband] good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:10-12).

How Is It Possible to . . .

- In the face of so much unhappiness, how do we know that true happiness is possible? How can we be sure?
- Let me remind you what you already know to be true. The home is God's own institution and marriage is God's own idea. Husbands and wives are God's inventions and the whole purpose of home life is one of God's planning. Now, with this being true, then nothing less than pure, unadulterated joy can result from life, if
- But look. This isn't such a big "if" after all. Allow me to go back, far back, for a moment or two.
- The Bible soberly teaches that when God decided to people the world He began with a single pair, Adam and Eve. He placed them in a truly lovely environment. The Garden of Eden must have been an idyllic spot, replete with all the floral glories which an omnipotent Creator could provide.
- There it was where the sweethearts were first attracted to each other and there it was where the first lovely marriage ceremony was pronounced. Into these first two hearts God had already implanted all the necessary characteristics of love and devotion.
- Remember please, this was the outworking of God's plan. This was the culmination of God's purpose. Nothing was forgotten. Nothing was overdone. Everything was perfect, for this was God's faultless handiwork.
- And, as our first parents took up their new life together, they began on the basis of loving adherence to God's wise principles. God, who knew all about them, had instructed them in the principles of happy and successful living.
- This is always the way God works. All His ways are perfect. He knows fully the end from the beginning. Nothing is withheld from either His knowledge or His power. Look the world over if you will. Everywhere you will find harmony, precision, efficiency and perfection inherent in God's creation.
- Thus it was with man. God's plan called for happiness. Adam and Eve were to know joy in quintessence. Their delights were to know no bounds. And all of this was to be found in willing adaptation to the good laws of God. In fact, when God's laws were followed, nothing else but overwhelming happiness could possibly result.
- But there's a sad chapter too

... Guarantee Happiness?

- This is truly tragic. One day a cruel deceiver stole into Eden's pristine innocence. It was Satan, the enemy of God, who entered in to tempt and seduce our first parents to commit terrible sin against God. Only too well do we know how he succeeded, for by this sin the entire human race fell from its exalted position of fellowship with God to a place of depravity, degradation and sorrow.
- Adam's sin became a fountain of woe. From it still emerges a stream of misery, hatred, broken hearts, blasted homes. The flow is so great that at times it seems to engulf the world. Happiness could now be a thing lost forever.
- God was sad too. His plan had called for human happiness. He wanted the best, the highest for His creatures. So one day God did something to restore the possibility for human happiness.
- God sent His well-beloved Son into the world to deal conclusively with sin. Christ entered the world by an amazing birth, lived a beautiful sinless life, died a sacrificial death. But by His death a new fountain of cleansing was opened for the sins of the whole world. God guaranteed this by raising Him from the dead. Now once more happiness is possible.
- And how then, does one enter into the incomparable benefits of the death of Christ? This is the best news of all. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is free to offer all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis. There is nothing to be, nothing to pay, nothing to do, but receive. The only requirement is that we accept God's offer with our whole heart.
- Multiplied millions of needy folk have exchanged their sin for salvation. They have come to know happiness in place of sadness. They have found life again to be worth living. They have entered into that favored realm of peace and true satisfaction.
- For salvation, you see, is God's plan, God's answer, God's remedy. This is His way of restoring man to his original position and far more. Happiness in homes and hearts is now again a possibility. More than that, happiness is sure if you will come God's way.
- So you see . . . happy wives (on God's terms) plus happy husbands (still on God's terms) equal happy homes and happy children. But wives have a particular place to fill, and a most special part to play in bringing this about. That's what we want to tell you now.

Good Wives Equal . . .

- I'll be honest with you. When you find a wife that's all she ought to be, invariably you find a happy husband and a harmonious home. This is the way God intended.
- Consider now . . . husbands need wives. God Himself declared that it was not good for man to live alone. Never was man made to live unto himself. A normal man can no more live happily without his proper mate than a car can operate without fuel. Wives are a full half of the picture of life, and a good deal more than half of the reason for happiness.
- I'll let you in on a secret here. A fine start on the road to real happiness is made just by being a wife. Just by providing a home, and just by being the mother of darling children. These are very basic needs in any man's life. He needs the things that only a wife can provide for him. That's the way God made him.
- But then if the wife seeks to be an especially fine one . . . if she will lovingly and devotedly try to meet the needs of her man, and work diligently to make their home a proper one, and if she will be the very best kind of a mother for their children . . . why, her husband will just love her to pieces, and will almost worship her all the days of their married life.
- Don't you see . . . just to be a wife means happiness, for that's just what husbands need . . . they need wives . . . real wives.
- All the good things in life come with happy homes. Things like comfort and relaxation. Things like rest and refreshment. What man doesn't like a home-cooked meal best of all? And after the meal is over, to pull up his favorite chair in front of the fire. And when he's tired, to sleep in peace in his own bed.
- But wait . . . what kind of a home are you going to have without a wife to be the Queen there? What sort of an existence would there be if you lived alone? What degree of happiness would be yours if your house contained no loving heart to greet you, no tender arms to enfold you, no lips to kiss you, no companionship to satisfy you. Do you begin to see how important a wife is?
- Wives are different from husbands. That's all part of God's plan. For God intended that a loving wife should be the richest source of happiness in the husband's life. He has definite needs. She meets these needs. Result . . . ? Pure joy!

. . . Happy Husbands

- Consider some of these needs: first of all, there's the need of companionship. No one wants to be lonely. Adam was lonely in the beautiful garden so God brought to him lovely Eve. The result was that Adam's need was met. Eve filled the need of companionship. No one can fill it like a loving wife.
- Man has sexual needs. These are not wrong or unnatural. God is the inventor of sex. It was He who planned man's body. The entire life cycle is one of God's manufacture. The sexual urge found in man's body was created by an all-wise heavenly Father. Moreover, sex is clean and noble when exercised according to God's principles.
- Here too, the wife is vital and necessary. She furnishes the complete answer to her husband's sexual need. She is man's complement in spiritual sex as well as physical sex. Together, as man and wife, God planned for them to explore and experience some of the greatest ecstasies of life.
- Man needs children. No man's life is complete without them. They mature man, and teach him some of life's greatest lessons. They make him fulfill his part in life's greatest cycle, the cycle of the perpetuation of the race. Here too, the wife meets the need. Out of the most intimate and beautiful experience of life automatically come darling children, bearing the image of both father's and mother's love for each other.
- Man needs encouragement. Many times the struggles of life are almost too heavy. The competition of business and profession produce weariness and discouragement. Who can best restore the faded spirit? Who can loyally stand by when others have forsaken? Well, you know. It's that dear one who promised (and meant it too) to stand by "for better or for worse, in sickness and in health."
- Man needs high ideals. Not that he does not possess them himself. But there are low ideals in life too, and man needs the strength which union of truth and purpose brings. Together man and wife obtain the courage to live on the high road. Together they resist evil and choose the good. Together, it is easy . . . apart, it is hard.
- You do see, don't you. No one can ever take the place of a wife. She is a winner even before she starts, for her place is already made for her. The need for her is already there. Nothing else in life can equal her. Therefore, what a challenge to fill that place, fill it well, fill it beautifully, fill it completely. Wise wives will.

Happiness Pays Off . . .

- No investment you will ever make as a wife will pay off so handsomely as the investment of your time, interest and energy in the quest of harmony in your home. Why, the husband who goes out from a happy home finds nothing impossible. He can span oceans, move mountains, fly to the moon. He finds his strength as the strength of ten. His accomplishments could ring the world. And largely, due to the fact that his home rejoices his heart and renews his courage. In this matter, the wise wife plays a primary role.
- I'm speaking aside from the fact that God has ordained homes to be happy. Also aside from the vows you took in your marriage ceremony when you promised to love, honor and cherish. Both of these are true and important. But home happiness is also a good investment. It's good business. There are a thousand and one by-products of value and importance. You're making an investment in true success.
- Let's prove this a bit. What good work can any husband do in his business or profession if he daily emerges from a home that is torn with dissent and bitter with unhappiness? He's defeated even before he starts. It's almost impossible for him to meet the keen competition of business if his home hours are spent in the furnace of frustration and confusion. Such a home robs any husband of his natural powers of attainment.
- On the other hand, husbands (wives too) who come from homes where harmony is the rule, find their abilities increased, their energies enlarged. Nothing is too difficult. Promotions come with regularity. Pay checks increase substantially. New and notable accomplishments are the order of the day.
- You see, the home is very basic. It's the castle where one renews his strength. It's the resting, recuperating place where one can regard for the battle of life. Without home, man is a weary, frustrated wanderer . . . restless, non-productive, defeated.
- What I want to say here, is that the wife is the key to home happiness. The home is largely what she makes it. The atmosphere is mostly of her creating. The tranquility is imparted by her own determination.
- Men respond beautifully to home harmony. They love a home where peace and joy are the order of the day. And when they find it . . . the sky's the limit!

. . . Many Ways

- Let me soberly remind you that to guide the home harmoniously will take plenty of thought and time. Of course, the guiding is to be done together. The husband must give his thoughtful consideration as well as the wife. And when a course of action is decided upon, it will be largely up to the wife to carry it through.
- However, husbands must not expect friend wife to do the job which God has ordained for him. He is the God-appointed head of the home. She is the "help" meet (that is, suited, fitted) for him. She's the helper, he the director. Both together are the force.
- Planning is vitally necessary. This ought to be a normal procedure. Just to sit down together, and unhurriedly and thoughtfully check over home matters. Out of this will come a method of procedure. Of course all of this ought to be bathed in prayer and encouraged by Scripture. In this way, God's peerless wisdom enters into the conference.
- Practically every matter of disharmony in homes stems from this basic cause . . . not enough planning, not enough cooperation. Neither partner has understood thoroughly what the other contemplated. Hence the misunderstanding.
- Wise indeed is the wife who studies and abides by God's wise order for the home. This brings home happiness as nothing else will. When this is done the blessing of God comes naturally, His power is readily available, and His guidance is constant and sufficient.
- The rich grace that comes from such a happy home cannot be measured. Not only will the husband be a success, but in the wife's own heart and life there will be overflowing joy and peace. In the lives of the children there is being built a capacity for happiness and a resistance to trial and difficulty which will be of value all their days. The testimony of the home will impress the neighbors for Christ, and the accomplishments of the members of such a home-haven will lay up rich treasure in heaven.
- So, it's worth while to put one's whole soul into the attainment of such a goal. Nothing should be allowed to detract. Prayer should be made as if the entire matter depended upon prayer. And good, old-fashioned work should be done as if everything depended upon such work. The results will be amazing.

Do You Need Help? . . .

- There's no doubt about it. Making your husband and home happy is a big job. Often there are opposing circumstances. More than often the husbands are slightly difficult to work with. Some wives have thought the task impossible. But take heart, there are some forces in your favor.
- In God's realm of things there are factors which produce joy just as surely as apple trees produce apples. Take for example, the matter of salvation. Here is a life transformation which will result in deep happiness as nothing else in this big world. For salvation, you understand, is an infusion of the divine life of God; it is the addition of an entirely new nature; it is the new birth into the family of the great God of the universe (John 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:37).
- When this miracle occurs in the heart of husband (and wife too), the attainment of happiness is made easier.
- But God's help in attaining and maintaining happiness doesn't stop with salvation. There's the day-by-day joy of the Christian life to be added. Did you know that the very instant a person actually trusts Christ as Saviour, he receives into his innermost heart a new Guest? This wonderful new Friend is none other than the Holy Spirit of God, the Third Person of the blessed Trinity? Moreover, He comes to abide, never to leave. And as we learn to lovingly yield to His gracious leading, He produces the "fruit of the Spirit" in us, the graces of the Christian life which include pure joy (I Cor. 6:19,20; Gal. 5:22,23; John 14:16,17).
- Now, don't you see, if both husband and wife are saved and sincerely yielded to the will of the blessed Holy Spirit within, there is every reason to expect that joy will automatically result.
- And here's another help. When you, as a godly wife, earnestly desire God's order in the home, then God's blessings can flow unhindered. You see, God has an order, or system, or way of operation. That way is that husband should be the leader, and wife, the follower. Naturally God is very jealous of His system. I mean, He knows that it is best and wants us to know it too. He wants us to follow His order even though we may not realize its value. When we fail to follow, then God's order is upset, and a mild form of anarchy results (Gen. 2:17; 3:16; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:17-19).
- Wives who truly want to make their husbands happy will do well to put themselves in line for the unhindered blessings of God. By exercising true godly humility, many have come to know more joy than they could contain.

- Even this is not all the help which God will give to sincere wives who ask it. True happiness in the Christian life is surely dependent upon a proper diet of spiritual truths. Just as a vitamin-rich diet of natural foods makes for radiant physical health, just so abundant meals of scriptural manna will result in a high degree of buoyant health in the things of the spirit (I John 1:4; Phil. 4:4; I Pet. 1:8).
- It could be that unhappiness in both husband and wife is merely the result of spiritual malnutrition. If so, the remedy is simple. Surfeit yourself on the nourishing stories, sermons, biographies, letters, songs of the Bible. Revel in its promises, drink deeply of its divine elixir.
- A very basic component of true joy in the home is the daily family altar. This is a time (however brief) when members of the family gather round the Bible to read and pray. Usually the daddy reads and prays, but then all may participate. Sufficient to say, that nothing in the home will so sweeten life and enrich lives as this simple spiritual exercise (Jer. 15:16; Ps. 119:105; II Tim. 2:15).
- Not all spiritual exercises are done in the home. There's also the church where God's people gather regularly. This is another of God's wise institutions. Here one may join hearts and hands with pilgrims of like faith, and find encouragement, faith, sustenance, comfort, inspiration and instruction not found in any other place. Just to attend God's house is balm to one's soul. And to be taught from the precious Word of God is to know a joy inexpressible and full of glory.
- When wife and husband unite in regular and systematic church attendance there is created a reservoir of joy and happiness which will last all the days of the years. God has so promised (Ps. 16:11).
- I'll be honest and point out to you the one thing which is the very quintessence of joy. If a husband and wife could practice this they'd have more joy than they could contain. I refer to the joy of leading others to Christ (Acts 8:5-8; James 5:20). May God encourage you to try.
- You do see, don't you, that happiness for the Christian is largely a matter of spiritual adjustment. True, there are many other matters and details. But the spiritual things are basic. If these things are found in your life and home, then the battle for happiness is already nearly won. So, the wife may be encouraged. God is on your side.

Planning Ought to Start Here . . .

- I mean before wives become wives. Without doubt these lines will fall into the hands of those who are rightly concerned about home happiness, but who do not as yet have either husband or home. But really this is good, for time is thus afforded to suggest some wise counsel which could be worth its weight in pure gold.
- The choice of a husband is an ultra-ultra-important decision. Actually far too great for mere human choice. But here's good news: such a momentous decision need not be left to earthly chance. As with all the Christian life, God stands ready to offer His matchless, unerring guidance.
- The question is . . . how shall one find God's "Prince Charming" for you? Fortunately, there's no mystery here. It's not by any super-secret formula. The method of meeting Mr. Right is as simple as prayer, and the pattern as easy as waiting on God's time to fulfill His promises. It's easy to see that home harmony is almost guaranteed when you have begun your married life with God's appointed husband for you. (How to find the right one is treated in author's booklet, "How to Find a Husband.")
- Now, when you have found God's "one and only" a question will immediately arise. How long should the engagement be? Fortunately, there are some helpful statistics available. Comprehensive surveys reveal that in the unhappily married group the engagements were very brief, some three months or less. But of the happily married, the engagement period was of longer duration. Strangely enough, the group with the highest marital happiness score were those engaged for five years or more.
- What is the ideal duration of an engagement? No one can say, for in every case there are different circumstances and conditions. But we can say that every engagement ought to be long enough to include the following items:
 - (1) Time to really know one another. You see love, and particularly, first love, is an idealized time. Thus each partner forms a rather "idealized" image of the other. What is vitally necessary is that time should be spent in coming to know the real person. There should be time for discussions of such topics as money, friends, parents, church, wife working, how soon the children, what kind of a home, is divorce ever justified? Wise couples should use the engagement period as a time to see what life would be like under these circumstances. For instance, some time could be profitably spent in

going shopping together, in house hunting, visiting married couples, baby-sitting for friends. All this would also tend to build a sane and solid foundation on which the future marriage may safely rest.

(2) Engagements should also be long enough to learn as much as you can about the problems married life will bring. And there are many.

(3) Opportunity should also be provided to learn the other's attitude on sexual matters. This is a day of frankness in intimate things. However, one must exercise extreme care not to let frankness sink into brazenness or unclean thinking.

(4) The matter of both parties' relationship to their parents ought to be considered soberly. Time ought to be taken to seek to establish satisfactory relations with the other's in-laws, and to allow opportunity to enable parents to make any adjustments that are necessary.

(5) Lastly, the period of engagement ought to be long enough to allow time for either one to change his mind, and terminate the engagement if this is found to be best. There is no dishonor here. Often-times it is the most noble thing to do.

- It is true that engagement periods present some problems. Naturally, there is a degree of freedom of association which has not been present before. Care must be exercised to see that the kisses and caresses do not go beyond the point of honor and purity. Failure here could throw a fatal blight upon the entire married life.
- Not at all uncommon is the disapproval of parents to a projected marriage. Occasionally the parents are unreasonable, and their wishes selfish and nearsighted. But with patience their opposition can be shown to be unsubstantiated, and they may in turn offer to greatly assist.
- What are we saying? Just this, that marriages which are begun sensibly and deliberately offer far more possibility for lasting harmony and happiness. The axiom "haste makes waste" is never more true than in this realm. Prospective wives will do well to consider prayerfully and carefully all the issues involved . . . beforehand.
- It is still true, that a leisurely period of engagement remains the best prelude yet devised to a durable, happy and satisfying marriage. So, by making the most of it you are noticeably enriching the chances for happiness in the years which are to follow.

Some Causes of Unhappiness . . .

- Now let's come down to earth. What causes unhappiness? Over what matters do most husbands and wives disagree? Well, here's the answer if opinion polls can be trusted. These are listed as the ten greatest stumbling blocks to happiness in the home (in order of importance):

- (1) Money . . . where did all the pay check go? Was it wisely spent? The scarcity of money bringing up the related question as to whether or not the wife should work too. How then to buy the things wanted?
 - (2) Raising children . . . the problem of what the "kids" do or do not do. Whether to take them with you when you go places. Social matters affecting children's training such as who administers discipline, who decides questions?
 - (3) Drinking . . . especially when the husband goes out to drink and then comes home to raise trouble. Too much money spent on liquor. Inability to purchase other things on account of liquor spending.
 - (4) Other women, other men; jealousy of each other; stepping out on each other. Too much gadding about; not enough attention paid to home obligations. Homes suffer on this account.
 - (5) In-laws and relatives . . . arguments about each other's families; mother-in-law problem; relationship to one another's families; time spent with the in-laws.
 - (6) Staying out too late . . . husbands going out and not taking the wives. Husbands taking too many nights away from home and family. Husband or wife comes home too late too often.
 - (7) Trivial things . . . matters of no great importance. Things one wants to do and the other objects. Some rather childish insistence on unnecessary matters. Each fails to give in to the other.
 - (8) Leisuretime problems . . . certain tasks needed to be done about the house which husband steadfastly overlooks. Amount of time the husband ought to give to the wife socially. Failing to take wife out to dinner.
 - (9) Selfishness . . . not enough "give and take" on part of both members. Wife's claim to have the right to do "some thinking" for herself. Endeavor on part of the wife to be "boss" with husband objecting.
 - (10) Religion . . . different beliefs; different churches. The problem of rearing children in the face of different church affiliations. The endeavor on the part of one to bring other to the same belief.
- There you have it. These are the causes and supposedly, if you solve these problems, happiness will result. Unfortunately, it's not as simple as that.

- Here's another angle! A further poll sampled husbands' opinions as to the chief faults of their wives. Again, faults are listed in order of importance:

- (1) Nagging . . . nagging with never a letup. Not mere suggestions but constant pounding. Nor did one husband interviewed attribute any part of his success to wife's nagging.
- (2) Extravagance . . . "They want to spend all you've got trying to keep up with the Joneses." They don't realize what a fellow has to do to get ahead; they hinder him, spend every cent he has.
- (3) Poor homemaker . . . "My wife doesn't keep our house clean." Wives don't get their husbands breakfast any more. They skip through housework with a lick and a promise and go off gadding.
- (4) Too much night-clubbing and drinking . . . "They visit taverns and neglect their children."
- (5) Gossiping . . . "They run their tongues overtime." Talking on the telephone too much. "My wife has a highly developed knack of twisting and misinterpreting things people say." They deal too much in fiction.
- (6) Selfishness . . . "It's gimme, gimme, gimme all the time." "My wife takes too much time getting dressed; she's always late for appointments. She never thinks about my comfort, only hers."
- (7) Too many outside interests . . . Sewing clubs, literary clubs, card clubs, tea clubs . . . women have gone club-crazy. Wives are so busy running around doing good they have no time for their husbands.
- (8) Too bossy . . . "She runs the home, she runs me. She's always telling the neighbors what to do, and now she's even trying to tell how to run the country." They try to run men's affairs as well as their own and fail at both.
- (9) Careless and untidy personally . . . "Women get married, get fat and sloppy." "My wife doesn't try to make herself attractive any more."
- (10) Interested in too many other men.

- So there's the list and straight from the husbands' mouths. Such characteristics are the proved thieves of happiness. These things, while possibly not the last straw in home security, certainly are the seeds of discontent, the sources of coming discord and the harbingers of separation.
- But wait, do not despair. There's an answer to these problems. Not merely the answer of modern psychiatry or worldly counseling. God has an answer, and we will do well to listen to His peerless advice with both ears . . . and an obedient heart.

What Husbands Actually Want . . .

- Basically, I mean. I am sure you'll find that most husbands' wants are few. There aren't hundreds and hundreds. There may be some ramifications included. But when you get down to brass tacks, practically every husband will name these three:
- Husbands want a wife. But don't laugh. This isn't as simple as you think. Consider for a moment what a wife is. She is much more than a member of the female sex who dresses up in a wedding gown and glibly repeats I do, I do, I do.
- Fundamentally, a wife is a person who meets her husband's needs. She is what he is not. She is divinely created to be a help to her husband. She supplies what he cannot supply for himself. She is God's answer to man's inability. She is the perfect complement to every male requirement. And all of us know, there are plenty of them.
- Let me illustrate. God made man with certain basic characteristics. These we call masculine qualities. Man is physically strong but is not too strong on such qualities as patience or tact, tenderness or compassion. But here is where God exemplified His wisdom. The wife supplies these qualities in abundant measure. Together, they form a team.
- Man is aggressive, a leader, an adventurer, a pioneer. This is no particular credit to him. God made him so. And these are excellent masculine factors. But taken alone, they're insufficient. These qualities do not produce a home, they do not beget children. There is necessity for complementary qualities. Someone needs to be strong on being a follower, a homebody, a domestically minded person, a comforter, a repairer of bodies and spirits. This is where the wife comes in. And no one understands and admits (deep down) this better than Mr. Husband.
- Man just can't help being a man. He is, and that's that. So husbands desperately need a wife who is content and satisfied to be a wife. To supply in satisfactory amounts all the things he lacks. To provide according to her God-imparted ability the love and service which will round out man's life and not leave him stranded on the island of his own insufficiencies.
- To be a real wife is a challenge of the highest kind. Husbands desperately need such an efficient (and loving) creature. They are actually quite helpless without one. They cannot do their best work, they cannot fulfill their place in life . . . alone.

- Let's go on . . .
- Man needs a home. Oh how he needs a home, a real one. Here is his castle. Here is his resting place, here is his spot to renew his spirit and to rejuvenate his courage. Without a home man becomes a neurotic, a frustrated automaton. Without a home he's not a man at all, he's a business machine . . . soon to wear out.
- But a home is much more than four walls, or a kitchen, bedroom and bath. Home is a living thing. It's love in a building. It's rest within protecting walls. It's fellowship with those who are most dear.
- And tell me, what is home without a wife? How would you like a home with two husbands? What would you think of a home where everyone lived in his own prison cell? Don't you see, it's the loving, tender affection of wife and husband for each other that makes a home. It's the coming home at night to such qualities as understanding, encouragement, kindness, compatibility, faithfulness and spiritual strength.
- No home need be without these. No wife need feel her inability to provide such. Every woman can supply these, for they are part of her God-given heritage. She has such things in abundance.
- Note please, homes need not be palaces. They do not necessarily need fancy fixtures or expensive furnishings. These may be provided. But essentially, home is the wife, and the wife makes the home with qualities which, being priceless, money cannot buy.
- The third basic . . . is children. Husbands want them. Moreover, they need them. Homes are incomplete without them. Wives are not fully developed until they arrive. And as for husbands, no man is up to his true stature until the darlings arrive.
- Children cost something. Nor, am I speaking only of dollars. Children cost care, affection, time and training. Many hours must be given them. There must be first, endless hours of care for the helpless infant. Then, time spent without counting, for the child and the adolescent. Then, guidance and instruction for the young man or woman.
- You see, there is so much to teach the child. But wait, that's not all. The child is teaching his parents too. Real lessons in life are offered at the cradle, the sick bed, the dinner table, on the front lawn. In these cases, the "student" is the parent, including husbands too.

The Ideal Wife . . .

- This might be called every man's ideal. It's a composite vision of the kind of woman a large percentage of men would like to find. Here she is:
- She ought to have a warm loving nature. Most men crave a mate who will satisfy their yearning for loving attention. She is eager to embrace him, anxious for his caresses, make him a part of her physical and spiritual self. She always has a tender smile for him. She delights in sharing with him all reasonable pleasures.
- She has good health. This is one of the most desirable assets mentioned by most men. This will mean the avoidance of habits and indulgences which endanger well-being. With this is the cancelling of any frenzied attempt to keep up with too many activities.
- Then, there's freedom from possessiveness. You see, men say that the overly possessive heart tends to be selfish, jealous and fearful. Such attributes rob the marriage of joy, happiness and health.
- There is too, the interest she ought to have in making a home. The house must be made a home. There must be cleanliness, order and livability in the home. Meals must be provided and they ought to be good. And friend wife (this makes a big hit) ought to dress like the sweetest, neatest wife in the world . . . at breakfast too.
- This one's a negative . . . total abstinence from nagging. Here is something universally hated. This practice tends only to irritate husbands and might set them definitely in the opposite direction. This does not mean that the Mrs. may not express her opinion. But once that is done, never go back and rehash it.
- Next is a set of twins . . . kindness and understanding. You'll find that nearly every man dreams of the girl with whom he does not feel obligated to explain every little fault, or misdemeanor. She just understands naturally. She trusts him completely. She is safe in that too, for he would lose his right arm before he'd deceive her. Kindness does not necessarily consist of slavish labor or lavish gifts. Rather, it's the ability to know that at the end of the day the atmosphere of the home ought to be charged with peace and love.
- Most men spoke of physical attractiveness, but never with undue emphasis. No matter how little nature has bestowed there's no woman who cannot enhance her attractiveness. Men want to be justly proud of the wife they've chosen.

- No matter what people say, men are idealistic. Each of them can imagine the girl whom he considers the complete woman for his particular form of life.
- Some men have suggested in one way or another the wife's ability to feed the husband's ego. I suppose it's because every man needs to feel that he is somebody. Too often he has to take the "gaff" in his business or profession. So, he looks for this need at home. Secretly he hopes that his dear one will look upon him as a strong, able, nice-looking husband. He eats up praise which is skilfully given, and literally hates to be belittled.
- Meeting a need like this may not be too easy. But be sure of one thing, if it can be done, if there's even some little basis for giving such praise, it will pay off handsomely beyond the wife's fondest dreams. And perhaps, she can play a little game here? Who can tell but perhaps her man will someday prove it out.
- This is an important one. Nearly every man questioned is looking for a woman who will be a good manager. For happiness' sake, it's wise to exhibit every consideration for the family purse. You may have your own ideas and they may be good. But to err on the side of conservatism is sure fire for success. And in the matter of keeping books and budgets you'll find that most husbands live in this realm. They're delighted to see you interested here too.
- I mention one more and I have a feeling that deep down in men's consciousness, it's important. It's faithfulness and spiritual strength. Every man yearns deeply for the woman whose moral standards are high. This is part of his code for wives. Some argue that men fail here, and sadly enough, it is true. But this in no way invalidates the hunger on his part that his dear one be clean, pure, noble.
- And as for spiritual strength, it is no secret that men desperately seek for this. They want to take hold on a power that is higher and will lift them. They want their mates to know how to reach up and take hold of God. They want their children to be taught in the ways of righteousness.
- There they are . . . eleven attributes earnestly desired. Are they too high, too unattainable? No, not with the help that God gives. Remember, these needs in men are God-implanted. Perhaps, God also planned that your husband should find his fulfillment in you.

Duties of Wives . . .

- You'll enjoy this and profit too. Nearly 400 years ago a book was written in England which, among other things, laid down the rules for successful marriage. You may conclude that the rules of the game have not changed too much after all. Here they are:

(1) St. Peter speaketh unto the wives in this wise: "Let wives be subject to their husbands"—which is as much as to say they must not contradict them in any point, but rather endeavor to please them by all means.

(2) The wife must not forsake her husband in adversity or deride him.

(3) She must esteem the manners of her husband to be the legal rule of her life.

(4) She must not be too sumptuous and superfluous in her attire, as decked with frizzled hair, embroidery, precious stones, gaudy raiments and gold put about, for they are the forerunners of adultery.

(5) She must not be jealous or mistrust her husband's absence.

(6) The sixth duty of a wife is carefully to oversee her household, and to bring up her children and servants in the fear of God.

(7) She must not discover her husband's imperfections and faults to any.

(8) The eighth duty of a wife is that she gibe not nor flout her husband but bear with him as long as she may.

- If these rules seem to be loaded in the man's favor, you must remember that when they were written England was a man's world, except that it was ruled by a woman.

- However, in that day more than in the present day, there was heavy dependence upon the principles of Scripture. Marriage was clearly seen to be an institution of God's planning, and the rules for happiness were understood to be rules which God had laid down.

- Most of the points taken above have their origin in the Bible. Take for instance, the quotation in point one is taken from Ephesians 5:24; which admonishes "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Point number two has its substantiation in Matthew 19:5,6. Point number four is clearly seen in I Peter 3:1-6. Not a bad source to find rules for happiness and harmony.

... and Husbands

- The man also came in for his duties in marriage too. In this same 17th-century book, the husband was admonished in this manner:
 - (1) That he give honor to his wife as the weaker vessel, for she is partaker of the grace of life.
 - (2) He must patiently brook the hastiness of his wife, for there is nothing in the world more spiteful than a woman if she be hardly dealt with, or egged to indignation.
 - (3) The husband in any case must not have affairs with any other but his own wife. A woman is jealous and naturally suspicious, and if her husband breaketh with her, she will not stick to break with him and privily borrow a night's lodging with her neighbor.
 - (4) The husband must not injure his wife by word or deed, for a woman is a feeble creature and not endued with such a noble courage as the man; she is sooner pricked to the heart, or moved to passions than man.
 - (5) The husband, in disputation with his wife, must sometimes confess himself vanquished by her.
 - (6) The husband must provide for his wife and her household according to his ability.
 - (7) The husband must suffer his wife to be merrily disposed before him, otherwise (a woman's nature is such) she will by stealth find out some secret place or other to tattle and to disport herself.
- You will see that here too, large dependence is made upon the Scriptures: The woman is called the "weaker vessel" in I Peter 3:7. Surely this does not mean the inferior vessel. Rather oftentimes the weaker vessel may be merely more delicate and beautiful.
- Smile as you may in this ancient "advice to the married," yet you wise ones can see an underlying principle. The wife was made to please the husband. She is a help . . . "meet" for him, or fitted or suited for him. God intended that the basic unit of society should be the family. In this family God placed the man as the head, the director, the breadwinner. Also, in the family unit, there is the wife, who is all the delightful things a man is not. But whose duty it is, to supply the needed characteristics which round out the home and make it run smoothly.
- Wives are so necessary. No home is complete without one. And wives can confidently reason that their God-given abilities are just those which are needed for happiness in the lives of their husbands and in the harmony of the home.

A Score Card for Wives . . .

- Would you be willing to give yourself an honest test?
- Here is a simple examination prepared by a nationally known counseling organization with literally thousands of cases forming the background. While this test does not specifically apply to Christian homes, that is, taking into consideration the ethics of the Christian life, you may find it interesting, revealing and stimulating.
- You might use this system of gradation: if your answer to the question is "never, or not at all," then your grade is zero. If your honest answer would be "a little or sometimes" then you would award yourself a grade of one; if "an average amount" the grade would be two; if you could answer "frequently, or usually" the grade would be three, and if you answered "regularly or practically always" you would award yourself four. Now, the perfect score would naturally be 40. If, however, you grade below 25 there is much need for improvement. Here is the test:
 - (1) Do you try to make the home interesting, attractive, cheerful, a place of rest and relaxation—devoting as much thought and study to that as you would to a job "downtown"?
 - (2) Do you encourage your husband to go out frequently with his men friends, though it means leaving you home alone?
 - (3) Do you serve meals that are enticing in variety and attractiveness?
 - (4) Do you handle household finances in a businesslike way?
 - (5) Do you keep yourself attractive (though not offensively so!) in appearance, in order that your husband may be proud to have everyone know you are his wife?
 - (6) Are you a "good sport": cheerful and uncomplaining, punctual, not nagging, not insisting on having your own way or the last word, not making a fuss over trifles or requiring him to solve minor problems that you should handle alone?
 - (7) Do you bolster your husband's ego, not comparing him unfavorably with more successful men but making him feel that he is the most successful man you ever met?
 - (8) Do you prevent your mother and other relatives from intruding unduly, and show courtesy and consideration to his own relatives?
 - (9) Do you take a sympathetic and intelligent interest in his business—yet leaving him a free hand, not offering advice, criticism of associates, etc., unless asked; and realizing that he must often give time to his business when you would rather have him give that time to you?
 - (10) Do you cultivate an interest in his friends and recreations, so you can make a satisfactory partner of his leisure hours?
- In order to make this test applicable specifically to Christian homes you might add further questions such as your interest in spiritual things, your pursuance of Christian habits, and your dependence upon divine aid. How do you score?

. . . and Husbands

- Now, here is a score card for husbands. But wait, you're not in any wise to place this before him. This is for your personal perusal only. We give you this in order that you may know what is the husband's part, and perhaps you can, by meriting such treatment, make it easier to bring such about.
- Do not think this impossible to any degree. Take for example the first item below. If your husband does (or may) allow you an appropriate amount to spend as you choose, would you handle it in a way that would be absolutely above reproach? And if so, would your husband already be aware of your ability here? Have you ever had occasion to demonstrate it?
- Or, take item number two. We hope that friend husband will most certainly measure up here. But do you do the same for him? And, if and when he remembers you, do you reciprocate with such appreciation and love that he is never likely to forget? Here is the score card:
 - (1) Do you allow your wife an appropriate amount of the family income, to spend as she chooses, without accounting?
 - (2) Do you still "court" her with an occasional gift of flowers; by remembrance of birthdays and anniversaries; by unexpected attentions?
 - (3) Are you cooperative in handling the children, taking your full share of responsibility and also backing her up?
 - (4) Do you make it a point never to criticize her before others?
 - (5) Do you share at least half your recreation hours with her?
 - (6) Do you show interest in and respect for her intellectual life?
 - (7) Do you show as much consideration for and courtesy to her relatives as you do to your own?
 - (8) Do you enter sympathetically into her plans for social activities, trying to do your full share as a host in your own home and, when a guest in the homes of others, trying to make her appear to the best possible advantage?
 - (9) Do you make an effort to understand the peculiarities of feminine psychology and to help her through her varying moods?
 - (10) Do you tell her at least once a day that you love her, and act as if you meant it?
- Just for fun, you might score yourself zero for "never;" one for "rarely;" two for "average or infrequently;" three for "usually or, a good deal;" and four for "regularly." The perfect score of course is 40. If you score less than 25 there's need for improvement.

Some Big "Little Things" . . .

- The truth is, that life is largely made up of little things. To that we may add, that far too often happiness in the home, or unhappiness, as the case may be, is won or lost on small issues. Now, most of these things are easily within the grasp of any wise wife.
- Take for example, the way the wife dresses. Poll after poll discloses that men like their wives to dress like women. They want them to wear buttons and bows, ruffles and ribbons. They adore their wives to look the very picture of dainty femininity. It makes them feel they're courting their "best girl" all over again.
- This is really a page of feminine secrets as to how to hold that man in the delightful bonds of exciting love. Again, men like perfume too. Not too much of course, and then the best you can afford. But perfume used wisely will always do something thrilling to a man's heart.
- On the other hand, men don't like screaming nail polish. Don't misunderstand . . . they want your nails to look lovely and your hands to be as feminine as possible, but it's the horrible colors they despise.
- Most men I know also secretly prefer long hair. Perhaps not too long, but long enough to be wavy and blowy. They don't mind if the breeze puts a few hairs out of place. They're thrilled when a few strands blow across their face. Nor do they object if long hair isn't in style this year. Long hair just does something to men, especially husbands.
- And I must be frank with you about lipstick. You'll find that Mr. Husband has a pet peeve here. Not that he's dead set against the careful use of the lip stuff. It isn't that. He just doesn't like the idea of gobs and gobs of it. He thinks that you ought to use it sparingly and skilfully. Otherwise, he reasons, it looks like a great gash over your face instead of dainty lips. And I think he's right.
- And you won't blush if I point out that husbands like dainty underthings. There's nothing wrong with that. For often, they get to see what goes on underneath. Surely, it's just as important to have these underlovelies in good repair, and in a state of clean daintiness as outside outfits.

- Let me tell you something here of some importance. Very often a wife will bring happiness to her husband's heart just simply by being a woman. He doesn't expect you to exercise the qualities of a man. He doesn't look for you to build bridges or move mountains. He delights in knowing that you're feminine. He's secretly pleased when you fail to repair your sewing machine. That's his job. He's chuckling under his breath when you've slightly dented the car's fender in backing it out of the garage. You see, that proves the superiority of man's mechanical ability.
- But he does expect you to make frilly lace curtains. And he bursts with pride when you make a batch of (perhaps not so good) home-made bread, or syrupy apple jelly. And when you make or wear some swishy petticoats he'll love that. I don't know that I can explain all these likes and dislikes. Perhaps this is just the way God made him.
- And if you could just think highly of him. If you could notice some of his good qualities, especially his qualities of manhood and masculinity and comment on them, he'd be tickled. I know he has faults. I know that there are some things in him that could stand improving. But perhaps this is the way to do it.
- It wouldn't be wrong to use a little feminine wile here. Pick out some quality and speak of it encouragingly. Don't overdo this or the game is a failure. But select something. Let's say . . . his careful driving, his selection of ties, his courtesy to his mother, his camaraderie with the children. Surely, there could be something that could bear praising. Find a time and a place and mention this. He'll be as pleased as a peacock.
- Then, sort of expect him to take the man's part always. You hold back and look for him to be the knight of chivalry. The age of romance hasn't really passed. Men will be gentlemen if the ladies will give them half a chance. In fact, they secretly dream of putting their wives on a pedestal. Too often the wife is not ready.
- What am I saying? Just this, that there are feminine methods at the command of the sweetheart-wife. They are her basic, God-given qualities. And they are sure to ensnare the masculine heart. Only they must be used skilfully. They ought to seem as natural as rain falling or grass growing.
- But they will make for happiness, for the husband will then realize his place, and the wife hers. With this matter settled joy will automatically spring up.

Husbands' Rights . . .

- Sure, I know that wives have rights too. But for a moment, let's talk about rights of husbands. They're not as many as you have thought. But they're important.
- Friend Husband has a right to a clean, orderly home. Note, I do not say that the home must be large, luxurious, expensively situated. But whatever home you have ought to be clean and neat.
- Husbands must bring home the bacon. That's their responsibility. They ought to work hard and long enough to support their wife and family adequately. This takes a bit of doing. But it is the wife's responsibility to keep that home above reproach to which the husband is to bring the bacon.
- You'd be surprised how important this matter of home order is. It's a real factor in happiness. It builds up approvable pride. It creates a deep sense of appreciation in the wife's industriousness. It aids in health of the children. And more than occasionally, it is the means of causing Mr. Hubby to take pride in improving the home.
- Here's another: the right to good nourishing meals. You know that husbands have appetites, some of them are expansive indeed. And that's understandable. But to the wise wife, this isn't any problem at all.
- Let's start at breakfast. Does your husband get up real early, perhaps in the wee hours? Shall you get up and sleepily prepare his morning meal? Well, not necessarily. Many husbands demand that their wives sleep in. But what you can do, is to lay out the materials before you retire. You can get the coffee all ready for the boiling water, set the table, place the cereal or bacon where it can easily be obtained. Put the New Testament where he can see it.
- When morning comes, and hubby starts moving around the kitchen, he'll bless you for these loving attempts to aid him. He'll say a special thanks to God for giving him a thoughtful wife.
- If he carries a lunch, this can easily be prepared the night before. Don't expect him to think and make up his own. No one likes to do this.
- Then, when day is done, and suppertime arrives, be sure that at the appointed time, a well-planned, well-prepared, and appetizingly served meal is on the table. Be dressed with clean dress, starched apron, freshly arranged hair. Wait, this isn't slavery, this is the pursuit of happiness.

- We're talking about rights of husbands. This one might be called . . . economic security. That is, he has a right to know that you spend money wisely. That you handle your part of the family purse in such a way that he has a feeling of economic well-being.
- I know that the husband is the head of the home. And as head, he has executive authority in the acquisition and expenditures of the funds. But of necessity, he entrusts you with much of this responsibility. Some husbands give over the paying of bills entirely to the wife. Now, isn't it right that the wife shall be careful and conservative in the spending of the money?
- In no wise does this mean that the wife must be miserly or niggardly with either herself or her children. No husband would demand that. Rather, it entails that the wife shall budget the funds wisely, buy moderately, and keep accurate accounts of money expended. This will bring more downright happiness to the accuracy-minded husband than almost anything you can do.
- Perhaps this isn't a "right" of a husband. It's rather an inseparable part of life. I mean that husbands should also be fathers. Their lives are incomplete without the miracles of babies in the home. They're cheated, they're shortchanged in life when no family is forthcoming.
- Statistics are oftentimes cold, but they are always revealing. In a recent survey the most unhappy segment in the poll were of those who were permanently childless. In fact, in most of these cases the absence of children was nothing less than a tragedy.
- What can be done? Well, thank God, in most cases children will be born to those who want them. And the happiness, the laughter, the downright joy, as well as some of the problems, is beyond computation. Children are life to the nth degree.
- Some wives draw back. Some think there is not yet enough money, the home is not adequate, the debts are too high. We do not rule on these reasons. But let us say that God's special smile is reserved for families with children. Usually, the family can get along. And the children add inestimably more than their cost. And, even if physical conditions prevent children, there are amazing ways and means of remedying this situation today.
- Husbands' "rights" pay off too. The happiness that is generated here fills the whole home.

God Intended Sex for . . .

- Please read these pages carefully, and keep in mind that counselors tell us not one marriage in ten is happy at this point. Moreover, this is the most dangerous area of the entire marriage cycle.
- You see, sex does not exist in our lives in an isolated compartment. Its effect for good or evil permeates our entire lives. Satisfactory (happy) sex deepens our capacity for every form of love and affection. This makes for better relationships with family, friends and business associates, and lends an inner poise that is communicated to everyone we meet.
- Tragically, the other side is also all too true. A poor sex life means bad love, or no love. And where there is no love, the personality withers and sours. Such a person is surely a failure in other areas.
- It is true that the ideal sexual relationship does not just happen. It is the product of pure love on the part of husband and wife plus careful planning. Certainly it is not a physical matter alone. Rather it is intricately and inseparably linked with the entire spiritual and emotional machinery of the spirit and soul.
- The two greatest enemies of sexual happiness are ignorance and wrong attitudes. Too frequently both husband and wife are woefully untaught in the deeper, lovelier aspects of married love. Some regard it as a necessary evil, almost bestial. Evidently they have not been taught that sex is one of God's masterpieces, and that the quintessence of earthly ecstasy is to be found in this realm.
- How could there be anything intrinsically wrong with sex when God is the Inventor? Why, the entire life cycle is centralized here. It was God who planned that a beautiful force called love should draw the hearts of a man and woman together. It was God who fashioned the bodies to be different so that each should complement the other. It was God who implanted the strong desire in the heart of the man. It was God who designed that the woman should satisfy her husband completely and perfectly.
- You see, it's only when God's wise laws are defied and flouted that trouble results. It's when man takes that which God intended to be pure and honorable, and drags it into the filth of sinful impurity that sex becomes a source of jealousy, sorrow and bitterness. But from the beginning of the human race, it was not so. God planned sex to be a fountain of happiness. And it can be.

... Happiness

- These are intimate things, I know, so I want to deal with them with the utmost of purity and good taste. But, at this point the wife has such an opportunity to provide for marriage happiness.
- You see, the husband has a physical need. God has placed in his body and mind a strong instinct of sex. The survival of the race is rooted here. More than often, the urge is exceedingly powerful. Occasionally it is so great, that it will override all else. Understanding wives will appreciate this.
- This is part of the reason why God ordained marriage. So that the physical cycle could be accomplished within the honorable bounds of the husband-and-wife relationship. The divine plan is that husbands should find their every sexual need supplied by the one who is the partner for all of life, and closer to them than anyone else.
- Most everyone knows that women are not usually as strongly sexed as men. Again, this is a wise provision by God. If the woman had as great a sexual appetite as the man, our moral civilization would be in grave danger of disintegration. But God has placed safeguards, in that the normal woman is never the aggressor but always the follower in sexual things.
- Consequently, there will be many times when the husband will show great desire and when the wife will feel none. It is just at this point that the wife can make for additional happiness by endeavoring to respond warmly to her husband.
- Do not think this is some modern idea. Rather, on the pages of the New Testament the doctrine of the same approach to the marriage relationship is taught. Here the Spirit directs the Apostle to write:

"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication [immorality], let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence [marriage rights, goodwill, kindness]; and likewise also the wife to the husband."

"The wife hath not power [authority and control] of her own body, but the husband; and likewise also the husband hath not power [authority and control] over his own body but the wife."

"Defraud ye not one the other [do not refuse and deprive each other of your marriage rights], except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together [resume marital relations] again that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency [lack of restraint of sexual desire]" (I Cor. 7:2-5).

- Here is a place which only a loving wife can fill. Here also is a never-ending need on the part of the husband. When the wife in true affection and unselfish kindness meets this need she opens a source of happiness that will never run dry.

Secrets of Love . . .

- As a part of God's plan, He has willed that man's sexual need should continue throughout life. Thus, the sexual relationship becomes an intimate cohesive, continually uniting the two in a delightful love game that never grows old. What a wonderful plan.
- There are, however, some love secrets which we would whisper in your wifely ear. Here are some ideas which should aid in keeping the love relationship ever on the mountaintop of pure joy.
- Some married couples begin to take their sexual life too much for granted after the first year or so. They become slipshod and perfunctory about it, and fail to see it as something always pleasurable and inspiring. They treat love-making as a matter of habit and biological necessity, and fail to realize that it can wonderfully refresh and renew their married life continually.
- Actually, sexual delight can be so handled that it never grows common. There is the matter of the basics . . . husband aggressive; wife, coy and to be caught. Then, there are a hundred and one varieties. And for the marriage relationship, all of them honorable and right in God's sight.
- Let me whisper a secret. The most rewarding sexual happiness is planned. Some couples agree in advance on their times together, as they would plan for a party. Thus, there are in addition to the moments together, the hours of anticipation.
- Some couples have a misconception, thinking that the best sex is spontaneous. The plan is to yield to the impulse on the spur of the moment wherever they happen to be in the house. But there is a basic weakness here. The act is consummated with brutal abruptness. There is no delight leadup to the time together, no gradual diminuendo afterward. There is no pleasant glow of anticipation, no sweet gratitude for the other's consideration.
- I sort of hesitate to speak of this here, but there is another important facet of married love to which little thought is given. It is the matter of grooming. The wife should prepare for love so that a maximum appeal is made to the senses of sight, touch and smell. There are few investments which pay more dividends than scrupulous cleanliness, attractive nightgowns and rare perfume. When the wife is unappealing, the entire desire on the part of the husband may be lost.
- You may add . . . it is equally important for the husband. Definitely! A shower, a shave and pleasant lotion will enable the wife to respond with enthusiasm.

- Everyone finds that sexual harmony does not happen in one burst of honeymoon ecstasy. Rather, it comes slowly in the course of years as couples learn what caresses achieve the richest response. One expert has declared that it takes five years for a couple to achieve good sexual harmony. Certainly, the first year should be devoted to mutual adaptation.
- Much has been said about the husband, how that he should remember that his cardinal principles are tenderness and unselfishness. He is told over and over again that love play should be artfully and gracefully performed. Not particularly in accordance with a manual of instruction, but according to the wishes of his dear one.
- The wife who earnestly desires married happiness will remember that her tactfulness is ultraimportant in love-making. If this is the time, and she does not feel particularly inclined, she should never let this be known to her husband. It's a little game that she can secretly carry on.
- Really, there is no hard and fast line, no absolute norm in sexual practice or activity. What is normal for one couple may not be for another. But if a husband and wife are happily married, whatever they do to express love is normal. Deviations are abnormal only when they are practiced to the exclusion of normal consummation.
- If variation banishes monotony and rekindles a couple's warmth and enthusiasm, then it is to be thoroughly recommended for both. Most intelligent couples vary their love-making enough to keep it out of the humdrum. Of course, no one should inflict a variation that is obviously offensive to the other.
- A wise minister once said: "Next to hunger, the most powerful of human instincts is that of sex. You cannot escape from it for you are made that way. It pulses in your blood, sings in your throat, shines in your eyes. Sex will either be the nicest thing in your life—or it will be the nastiest—depending on whether you use it or abuse it."
- For wives, sex is a golden opportunity for happiness. You are God's living, loving instrument for your husband's highest happiness. Surely this is a worthy cause to do all you can to provide pure joy. Some have thought this area the key to all others. It may well be.

You Can Do It . . .

- Do what? Keep your husband happy, keep your home serene, keep your marriage successful. How do I know? Simply, because God planned for the wife to be the key to home joy. And if Christian wives will seek and follow God's simple plan, nothing can prevent abundant results. Let me suggest a sensible 7-point program to follow:
- First, don't ever forget that home happiness is primarily a spiritual matter. It must be accomplished with spiritual tools. If you neglect these, the result is doubtful. But when you place these spiritual graces in the number one position in your home . . . prayer, Bible reading, family altar, regular church attendance . . . you'll find the proper foundation is made for building a home of pure joy. God guarantees this (Matt. 6:33).
- Then resolve. Yes, resolve. Lay out detailed plans for what you hope to accomplish. Draw yourself a picture if you wish. Make a graph. Set some goals. Know thoroughly just what you want to attain. Do this secretly or in cooperation with Hubby. But do it.
- Give yourself enough time. Perhaps many of these goals will take a bit of doing. Build slowly but build well. Forbid yourself any discouragement. Know that you will eventually reach your standard of happiness because this is God's will for you. And if it is God's will, and if you prayerfully cooperate, what can keep it from being a tremendous success?
- This is number three . . . take a very critical attitude toward yourself personally. That is, constructively critical. What improvements do you need? Are you too plump? Too thin? Is your hairdo becoming? Have you had any recent advice on your clothing problems? Has there been any letdown in personal care since marriage? Your teeth, complexion, skin? Be brutally frank, don't spare yourself. The cause is worthy.
- Or, inner graces too. How about your voice? Is it pleasing? Or, do you have that inner poise that is so desirable? Is sincerity one of your virtues? Are your habits above reproach? Do you strive to maintain a calmness, a cheerful outlook, an attitude of encouragement. Believe it or not, these things are priceless.
- If you fall short on any point, then get some help. Fortunately, there are many good books today waiting to be read. There are classes and study courses. There is no excuse not to be what you ought.

- Remember next, that femininity wins. God never expected you to compete on masculine grounds. You're a woman, so make the most of that. This is an important requisite for home happiness. That you should be a womanly wife in every sense of the word.
- Dress like a woman and remember that most of a woman's charm is in her mystery. Be sure your clothing is feminine. Do your hair in a feminine way. Cultivate good, old-fashioned womanly graces. Don't be ashamed of being born a woman. You have powers to give happiness no other possesses. Use them.
- We come to number five. Watch those outside activities. Don't get so busy with clubs, committees, luncheons, even church, that home is neglected. In fact, concentrate on home. Let the major portion of your thought and energy be spent here. Give the children and husband even more time than they demand. Let me whisper . . . creating home happiness takes time . . . much time. Don't shortchange it.
- This is a secret between you and me. Boost your husband when you can. Find something to compliment. Be very astute in this, however. But keep your weather eye open for points of praise. Don't say anything dishonest. Don't exaggerate. But search and find some point upon which you may say genuine words of appreciation. Make this a home policy. You'll soon see the reason why or I don't know husbands.
- Let unselfishness be your over-all motto. I must warn you, there will be times when you realize you're doing more than your part in the endeavor to generate and maintain home tranquility. You'll be tempted to say . . . well, if that's all the appreciation I get, I'll quit. But you mustn't quit. For you're the key to success. Husbands can't do it, children can't either. Just wives are so gifted. If you fail, there never will be any results.
- But it will pay off, not only in your home, but in your heart too. Remember that word of the Lord Jesus. He once said . . . "It is more blessed [happy] to give than to receive." Yours is the giving part. You'll be called upon to give and give and give. Possibly you'll get little in return. But in reality, the one who gives most is the one who has the most joy. Because it's the giving that brings joy. There will come a sense of inner satisfaction and peace that nothing else will bring . . . no not in all this big, wide, wonderful world!

Happy Ever After? . . .

- The Bible is an exceedingly wise book. One of the marks of its unique sagacity is its ability to say a great deal in very little space. Take, for example, a short sentence which one day passed our Lord's lips as He remarked, "It is more blessed [i.e., happy] to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
- Do not we find here the entire secret of happiness? Is not this also the answer to happiness in the home? Could this be the magic key which might unlock the floodgates of joy . . . everywhere?
- Let the wife set the example. Let her embark on a program of giving. Giving of her love, her sympathy, her service, her life. In so doing, she would find greater happiness for herself. That's what our Lord said. But that is not all. She also would open new avenues of giving in her husband and children. Spurred on by her unselfishness, they too would begin to give. And it would not be long until there would hardly be room enough to contain the accumulated joy.
- You see, God's thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways. As a matter of fact, they are infinitely higher. Oftentimes they run quite contrariwise to ours. But they work, nevertheless. God guarantees that.
- Here is a little gem of "Beatitudes for a wife" . . .

Blessed is she whose daily tasks are a labor of love; for her willing hands and happy heart translate duty into privilege, and her labor becomes a service to God and all mankind.

Blessed is she who opens the door to welcome both stranger and well-loved friend; for gracious hospitality is a test of brotherly love.

Blessed is she who mends stockings and toys and broken hearts; for her understanding is a balm to humanity.

Blessed is she who scours and scrubs; for well she knows that cleanliness is one expression of godliness.

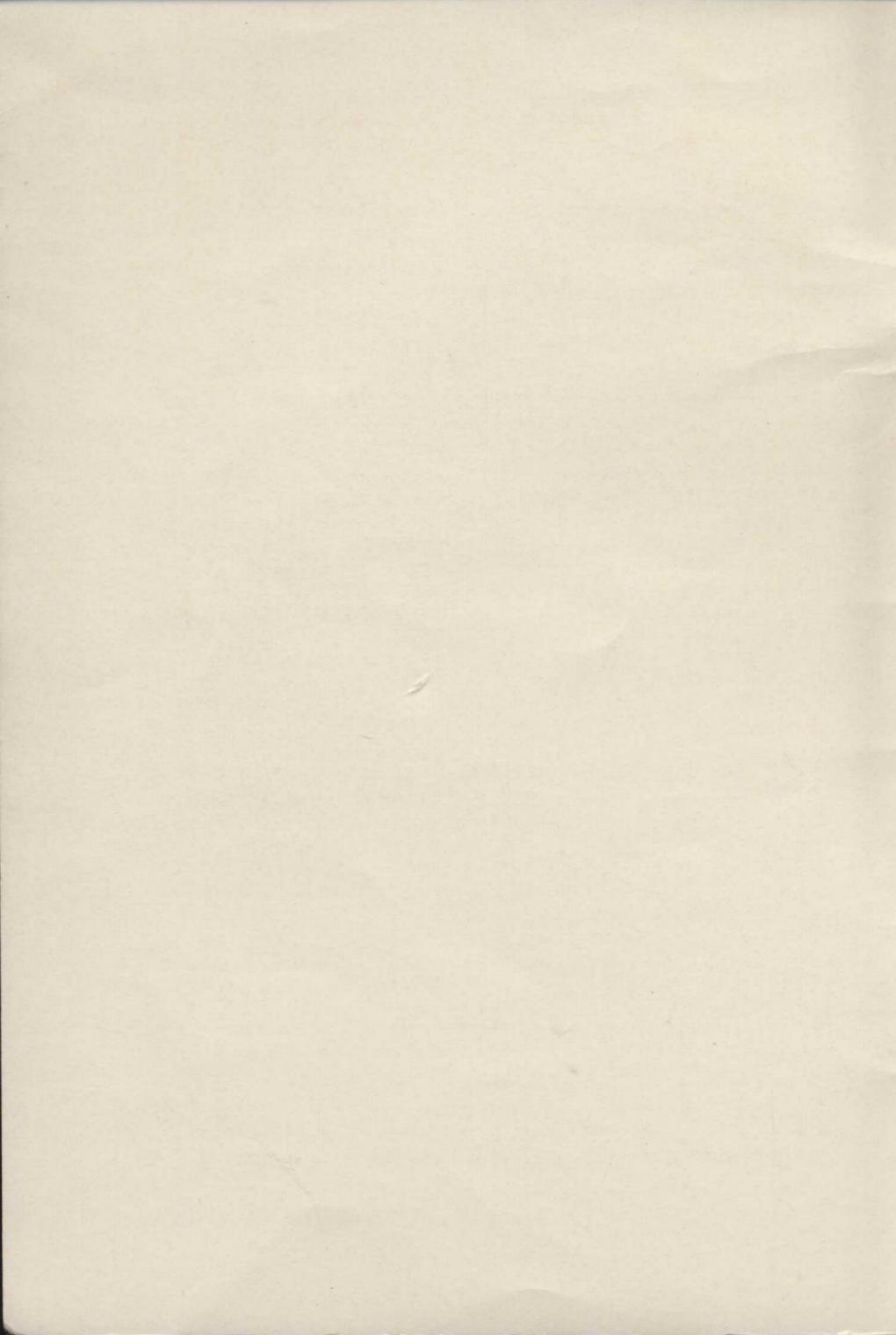
Blessed is she whom children love; for the love of a child is more to be valued than fortune or fame.

Blessed is she who sings at her work; for music lightens the heaviest load and brightens the dullest chore.

Blessed is she who dusts away doubt and fear and sweeps out the cobwebs of confusion; for her faith will triumph over all adversity.

Blessed is she who serves laughter and smiles with every meal; for her buoyancy of spirit is an aid to mental and physical digestion.

Blessed is she who preserves the sanctity of the Christian home; for hers is a sacred trust that crowns her with dignity.



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